

and Claims 1 [sic; 20], 24-28, 32, and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP No. 019,612.

In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that the office action fails to make a prima facie obviousness determination as required by *In re Braat*, 937 F.2d 589, 19 USPQ2d 1289 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Hence, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 20 in view of the Paton patent, Applicant submits that the Paton patent fails to teach or suggest a base adapted to be fitted within the socket interior, a valve coupled to the base, or an attachment mechanism for releasably attaching an upright assembly. Hence, the Paton patent is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 20.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 32 in view of the Paton patent, Applicant submits that the Paton patent fails to teach or suggest a valve coupled to the base or an attachment mechanism for releasably attaching an upright assembly. Hence, the Paton patent is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 32.

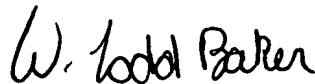
Regarding the rejection of independent claim 32 in view of the Toles patent, Applicant submits that the Toles patent fails to teach or suggest a channel extending into the base and opening onto the socket interior or an attachment mechanism for releasably attaching an upright assembly. Hence, the Toles patent is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 32.

Finally, regarding the rejection of independent claims 20, 32, and 36 in view of the EPO patent, Applicant respectfully submits that the office action fails to make a prima facie showing since the lone figure of the patent does not speak for itself and the description thereof is in a foreign language.

An early and favorable action regarding all of the active claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 43-66 (New).